

It appears that *Halcyon chloris* is larger on Ono than on Viti Levu. It is clear that there is overlap in the weights of *Fregata ariel* and *Fregata minor*. Immature *Anous minutus* can often be detected by their lighter weights, though their shorter bills and smaller white caps are more reliable (Tarburton 1978). Sexual dimorphism appears in the weights of *Columba vitiensis* and *Gallus gallus* with males being the larger. The large range in the weights of *Foulehaio carunculata* may indicate that sexual dimorphism applies there also.

Some of the species included here are also found either in neighbouring island groups or are cosmopolitan, and so comparisons can be made. The two *Puffinus pacificus* were much lighter than five from Tuamotu and Gambier which weighed 320–385 g and averaged 370 g (Lacan & Maugin 1974). The range of *Sula sula* was smaller at both ends than in 10 specimens from Tuamotu which ranged from 780 to 1120 g (Lacan & Maugin 1974). Six *Sula leucogaster* from Tuamotu and Gambier had a similar range (1120–1600 g) to this Fijian sample. One of the reef herons from Ono was considerably heavier than a sample of 45 from Tuamotu and Gambier which ranged from 345 to 625 g (Lacan & Maugin 1974). Both species of *Anous* also averaged heavier than those from the Tuamotu and Gambier islands. Fijian *Circus approximans* weights are below the range of that species in New Zealand (Fox 1977). There, males ranged from 525 to 697 g (\bar{x} = 609.4, n = 21) and females are heavier with an average of 820.5 g (n = 29, range 700–1016).

Weight changes in migrants often vary more than 100% and *Pluvialis dominica* is apparently no exception. The bird from Ono was taken on 14 May, only three weeks later than two birds taken in Tahiti which weighed 115 and 215 g (Lacan & Maugin 1974).

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New Information on Birds in Cameroon

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In the course of two visits to Cameroon in March–April 1990 and again in December 1990–January 1991, observations were made which represent extensions to the known range of a number of species, and data were

collected which alter the known status of others, and these are presented here. Seven species were recorded apparently for the first time in Cameroon. All co-ordinates are taken from Louette (1981) except those in square brackets which are my own. References to Louette are all from that same source. The sequence and nomenclature of species are based on Brown *et al.* (1982), Urban *et al.* (1986) and Fry *et al.* (1988) for the non-passerines and Hall & Moreau (1970) for the passerines.

PINK-BACKED PELICAN *Pelecanus rufescens*

Two at Waza National Park (11°25'N, 13°34'E) on 24 Mar 1990. There are few dry season records for the northern part of Cameroon.

BLACK STORK *Ciconia nigra*

A single adult in Waza National Park on 20 Dec 1990. Louette gives no records for Cameroon but mentions a record for Nigeria near Lake Chad. Although mapped for northern Cameroon in Brown *et al.* (1982), this appears to be the first record for Cameroon.

ABDIM'S STORK *Ciconia abdimii*

One at Benue National Park (08°05'N, 13°55'E) 24 Mar 1990, two Ngaoundaba (07°04'N, 14°00'E) 27 Mar 1990, 20 near Ndop (06°00'N, 10°25'E) 6 Apr 1990. Up to 50 seen daily in Waza National Park 20–21 Dec 1990. There appear to be few dry season records of this species in the northern part of Cameroon.

YELLOW-BILLED DUCK *Anas undulata*

Two at a lake near Ngaoundéré (07°19'N, 13°35'E) on 25 Dec 1990. The only previous record is of one specimen from the Vina River (07°08'N, 13°50'E) (Monard 1951, cited by Louette). This record is erroneously mapped for northeastern Nigeria in Brown *et al.* (1982). The proximity of the two sites and presence of suitable breeding habitat in the area suggest that this species may be resident in small numbers. There is only one other record for West Africa, from the Mambilla Plateau (07°30'N, 11°35'E), Nigeria (Fry 1986).

PINTAIL *Anas acuta*

Up to 50 seen in Waza National Park 20–21 Dec 1990. Louette states that this species is regular at Lake Chad but gives no records from further south.

SHOVELER *Anas clypeata*

Two observed in Waza National Park 20–21 Dec 1990. Louette gives no records for Cameroon but states that it must occur. This record appears to be the first for Cameroon.

BAT HAWK *Macheirhamphus alcinus*

One at Benue National Park 26 Mar 1990 and at the same locality on 23 Dec 1990. Louette states that the species is recorded mainly from the forest but gives a record from Koum on the Benue Plain.

EGYPTIAN VULTURE *Neophron percnopterus*

Three seen in Waza National Park 24 Mar 1990. Up to four seen daily in Waza National Park 20–21 Dec 1990. Louette states that the species is present in Cameroon south of Lake Chad but that it is probably rare. Both

adult and immature birds were seen on both visits to Waza and the species might well be found to breed at Waza Rock.

SHORT-TOED EAGLE *Circaetus gallicus*

Four on 20 Dec and a single on 21 Dec 1990 in Waza National Park. Thiollay (1978) considered this to be the commonest *Circaetus* species in the dry season.

BROWN SNAKE EAGLE *Circaetus cinereus*

An immature bird on 21 Dec 1990 in Waza National Park. Louette states that there are few observations for Cameroon.

SMALLER BANDED SNAKE EAGLE *Circaetus cinereus*

Singles at Benue National Park 26 Mar and 24 Dec 1990. Louette states that there are few detailed records for Cameroon.

PALLID HARRIER *Circus macrourus*

A male at Waza on 23 Mar 1990 and a male near Mora (11°03'N, 14°09'E) on 22 Dec 1990 were the only records. Louette states that this species is common during the dry season in the savanna.

MONTAGU'S HARRIER *Circus pygargus*

The commonest harrier in the north with 10–12 birds seen between Maroua (10°36'N, 14°20'E) and Waza and in Waza National Park 21–22 Mar 1990, and one on the Adamawa Plateau near Ngaoundéré 29 Mar 1990. Up to 15 birds seen daily in Waza National Park 20–21 Dec 1990, and one or two birds seen daily on Benue Plain and Adamawa Plateau 23–28 Dec 1990. Louette states that the species is seldom mentioned from Cameroon and is probably overlooked. Thiollay (1978), cited by Louette, observed many in the Northern region.

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus*

One in Waza National Park on 24 Mar 1990, singles at Ngaoundaba on 27–29 Mar 1990 and two near Ngaoundéré on 29 Mar 1990. Three single birds seen in the Bamenda Highlands 17–18 Dec 1990, singles at Waza Park on 21 Dec 1990 and two near Garoua (09°18'N, 13°24'E) on 23 Dec 1990, four at Ngaoundéré 25 December 1990, one or two daily at Ngaoundaba 25–28 Dec 1990 and singles near Buea (04°09'N, 09°14'E) on 1 Jan 1991 and Limbe (04°01'N, 09°12'E) 2 Jan 1991. Louette states that the species has been observed "now and then". From our observations the species is apparently regular over a wide area of Cameroon.

LIZARD BUZZARD *Kaupifalco monogrammicus*

One near Mora on 22 Mar 1990. This record is considerably further north than the northernmost record given by Louette at Koum (08°23'N, 14°31'E), Benue Plain.

WAHLBERG'S EAGLE *Aquila wahlbergi*

One seen in Waza National Park 23 Mar 1990. Two seen at Waza on 20 Dec 1990, a single between Garoua and Benue on 23 Dec 1990, two between Benue and Ngaoundéré on 25 Dec 1990 and a single at Ngaoundaba on 26 Dec 1990. Louette states that this species is not much recorded in Cameroon.

AFRICAN HAWK EAGLE *Hieraetus spilogaster*

Singles in Waza National Park 20 Dec 1990 and Benue National Park 24 Dec 1990. Louette states that this is a rare or overlooked species in West Africa. Thiollay (1978) only recorded the species twice in northern Cameroon.

BOOTED EAGLE *Hieraetus pennatus*

Singles in Waza Park on 20–21 Dec 1990 and between Waza and Garoua on 22 Dec 1990. This species was first recorded in Cameroon by Thiollay (1978) in the Northern region. There appear to be few documented records.

LESSER KESTREL *Falco naumanni*

A male between Makolo and Mora on 22 Mar 1990. Although mapped as occurring in most of Cameroon in Brown *et al.* (1982), in fact this appears to be the second record for Cameroon, the first being at Ngaoundéré on 7 Sep 1985 (Wilson 1989).

RED-FOOTED FALCON *Falco vespertinus*

A migrating flock of *c.* 300 between Ndop and Kumbo (06°12'N, 10°40'E) on 6 Apr 1990. Louette states that this species is noted in some years, mostly in April.

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo*

A single at Bali Safari Lodge, Bamenda (05°56'N, 10°10'E) on 5 Apr 1990. (*F. cuvieri* also present at this site). Louette gives only one documented record for Cameroon.

PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus*

A pair of *P. p. minor* on territory, calling and seen to copulate, above the tree-line on the Buea track, Mount Cameroon, 1 Jan 1991. The status of this species does not appear to be well known in Cameroon.

BARBARY FALCON *Falco pelegrinoides*

An adult photographed and observed at very close range in Waza National Park on 20 Dec 1990. Louette gives no records of this species for Cameroon. This observation appears to be the first documented record.

LESSER JACANA *Microparra capensis*

One seen near Ngaoundéré on 25 Dec 1990 (M. Van Beirs and R. Allison, pers. comm). Louette gives only two records for Cameroon, both in the Northern region.

WHITE-FRONTED SAND PLOVER *Charadrius marginatus*

Two on Benue River near Garoua on 23 Dec 1990. Louette mentions one specimen from the Benue Plain.

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus*

Twenty in Waza National Park on 20 Dec 1990, and one the following day. According to Louette there are few records, all from northern Cameroon.

CHESTNUT-BELLIED SANDGROUSE *Pterocles exustus*

The commonest sandgrouse in Waza National Park; up to 200 seen 23–24 Mar 1990 and up to 150 seen daily 20–22 Dec 1990. Louette gives

no records for Cameroon but states that this species occurs near Lake Chad in Nigeria. These records appear to be the first for Cameroon.

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur*

Up to 500 present in Waza National Park 23–24 Mar 1990 and up to 100 seen daily 20–22 Dec 1990. The species was probably much more abundant than these numbers suggest. There appear to be few documented records.

ADAMAWA TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia hypopyrrha*

Six birds at an altitude of 350 m in Benue National Park on 24 Dec 1990. The birds were heard calling from gallery forest and watched drinking at the river's edge. Although recorded by other authors (cited by Louette) from the north of the country and the Adamawa Plateau, Louette himself failed to find this species in Cameroon and despite careful searching we failed to locate the species in March. Urban *et al.* (1986) give December as the laying period in Nigeria, and I suspect that the birds at Benue may also breed at that time but move away from the area by March.

EUROPEAN CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus*

One near Limbe on 30 Dec 1990. Louette states that there are few data for Cameroon.

NIGHTJAR sp. *Caprimulgus* sp.

A small nightjar picked up in a water-logged state on a track at Bafut-Nguemba Forest Reserve (Bamenda) on 9 Apr 1990, and later released, has not yet been identified despite measurements and a series of photographs taken in the hand. It lacked any wing or tail spots, any obvious collar or other conspicuous plumage features. The wing length was 147 mm. This bird may prove to be an undescribed species.

SWALLOW-TAILED BEE-EATER *Merops hirundineus*

A single at Benue National Park on 26 Mar 1990. Louette gives no records for Cameroon but states that it will probably be found there. Fry *et al.* (1988) map this species for northern Cameroon, but this appears to be the first documented record.

PREUSS'S CLIFF SWALLOW *Hirundo preussi*

Up to 12 birds seen Benue National Park 26–27 Mar 1990 and up to 20 there 24–25 Dec 1990, and a single immature at Ndop on 6 Apr 1990. There appear to be few documented records.

TAWNY PIPIT *Anthus campestris*

One 22 km south of Waza on 22 Mar 1990. Louette adds nothing to Good's (1953) statement that the species is "possible in Cameroon". This appears to be the first record.

LONG-BILLED PIPIT *Anthus similis*

One seen at close range in typical rocky habitat at Ngaoundaba 26 Dec 1990. Louette mentions the race *A.s.bannermani* as occurring at Bamenda, Mount Mananguba and near Yaounde.

RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus*

Three near Makolo 22 Mar 1990, 10 in Waza National Park 24 Mar 1990. Louette mentions only two observations and one specimen of this species for Cameroon.

WOODCHAT SHRIKE *Lanius senator*

Three between Makolo and Waza on 22 Mar 1990, up to six daily in Waza National Park 23–24 Mar 1990, one near Maroua 25 Mar 1990. Two or three daily in Waza National Park 20–21 Dec 1990 and one near Makolo 22 Dec 1990. Louette gives few records of this species for Cameroon.

MASKED SHRIKE *Lanius nubicus*

Single birds at Waza National Park on 23 Mar 1990 and between Waza and Maroua on 25 Mar 1990. Two at Waza on 21 Dec 1990. Louette mentions only one specimen and one observation for Cameroon.

BLUE ROCK THRUSH *Monticola solitaria*

One at Waza 20–21 Dec 1990. Louette mentions records by De Greling (1972) for Waza and states that the species may be regular there.

ICTERINE WARBLER *Hippolais icterina*

One at Bali (Bamenda) on 6 Apr 1990. There appear to be only two previous records from Cameroon.

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla*

One at Ngaoundaba on 28 Mar 1990, and one at Bali (Bamenda) on 17 Dec 1990. Louette gives a record from Yagoua as the only record for Cameroon.

FAN-TAILED WARBLER *Schoenicola platyura*

One at Bali (Bamenda) on 6 Apr 1990. Louette states that this species is known from only a few localities in Cameroon including Bamenda.

BAMENDA APALIS *Apalis bamendae*

Three at Ngaoundaba on Adamawa Plateau on 28 Mar 1990. This locality is c. 30 km from Louette's site at Tello.

GOLDEN-BREASTED BUNTING *Emberiza flaviventris*

At least two birds seen 20 km south of Waza on 22 Dec 1990. Louette gives only two previous records for Cameroon at Gagadjé and Garoua.

WATTLED STARLING *Creatophora cinerea*

A party of six birds at Ngaoundaba on 29 Mar 1990, and a maximum of nine birds at the same locality 25–27 Dec 1990. This species is not listed by Louette, and Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1970–73) give only eastern Central African Republic and northeastern and eastern Congo (now Zaire) as the range in West Africa. The records from Ngaoundaba represent a range extension of nearly 2000 km.

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New and noteworthy bird records from Guatemala and Honduras

by Steve N. G. Howell & Sophie Webb

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As with many areas of Central America, much remains to be learned about the occurrence and distribution of birds in Guatemala and Honduras. These countries have been visited infrequently by ornithologists in the past 25 years and consequently little recent data exists about their avifauna.

This paper is based on a total of eight weeks of field work in Guatemala during May and June 1988 (Howell & Webb) and February and March 1991 (Howell), and four weeks in Honduras in June 1988 (Howell & Webb) and March 1991 (Howell). The following list represents significant information concerning 40 species and one hybrid, including three species new to the Guatemalan avifauna and two new to Honduras. We also update status information for certain species, the most recent information for many of which is otherwise that given by Monroe (1968) for Honduras, and Land (1970) for Guatemala.

FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK *Dendrocygna bicolor*

Honduras: at Lake Yojoa, Dpto. Cortés, 12-15 birds on 28 May, and 70 birds on 30 May 1988. While the species is known to breed at Lake Yojoa, the highest number recorded there in the past was 30 birds (Monroe 1968).

MASKED DUCK *Oxyura dominicensis*

Honduras: this shy and little-known duck has been reported rarely from Honduras (Monroe 1968) and is not known to breed in the country.